

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0743

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EIND, ETRD, MASS

SUBJECT: NORTHROP BRIBERY CASE IN THE GERMAN PRESS

1. THE NORTHROP CORPORATION BRIBERY CASE BROUGHT TO LIGHT BY THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE FOUND RELATIVELY LITTLE COVERAGE IN GERMAN NEWSPAPERS TO DATE. HOWEVER, IT SEEMS TO HAVE ATTRACTED CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION IN THE FRG DEFENSE MINISTRY WHICH REPORTEDLY REQUESTED A COPY OF THE SENATE REPORT, TO EXAMINE POSSIBLE BRIBERY ACCUSATIONS IN CONNECTION WITH BUNDESWEHR PROCUREMENT.

2. A SPOKESMAN OF THE DEFENSE MINISTRY INFORMED THE PRESS ON JUNE 11 THAT THE MINISTRY WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY BRIBERY CASE. HE STATED THAT A GERMAN-US GOVERNMENT CONTRACT WORTH \$30 MILLION WAS CONCLUDED IN 1965 INVOLVING THE DELIVERY OF 46 T-38 AIRCRAFT FOR THE TRAINING OF GERMAN AIR FORCE PILOTS IN THE US. FURTHERMORE, TWO OTHER CONTRACTS WERE SIGNED, ONE FOR THE SUPPLY OF SPARE PARTS FROM 1966 TO 1971 INVOLVING DM 230,000 AND THE OTHER ONE FOR RESEARCH PROJECTS IN 1966 AND 1967 INVOLVING DM 2 MILLION.

3. FRANZ JOSEF BACH, FORMER PERSONAL AIDE TO THE LATE CHANCELLOR ADENAUER ALSO REPORTEDLY DENIED THE ACCUSATION.

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TIONS RAISED AGAINST HIMSELF. ACCORDING TO DIE WELT,

HE SAID: "I HAVE NEVER WORKED FOR NORTHROP AND I HAVE NEVER GOTTEN ANY MONEY FROM NORTHROP". BACH IS FURTHER QUOTED TO HAVE SAID THAT HE HAS LIKEWISE RECEIVED "NOT ONE PFENNIG" FROM THE EDC (ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION), ZURICH FROM WHICH HE HAD OBTAINED "SEVERAL CONTRACTS" AS AN INDEPENDENT BUSINESS ADVISOR, AFTER SEPARATION FROM THE BUNDESTAG IN 1972.
HILLENBRAND

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